

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
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R 200540 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0968

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3756

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFRO, CB

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BGEN LON NON TO THE UNITED STATES

1. UM SIM DISCUSSED WITH ME TODAY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS THE PROJECTED VISIT OF BGEN LON NON TO THE UNITED STATES. I COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO GET DOWN TO SPECIFICS UNTIL WE KNOW WHEN BGEN LON NON WILL LEAVE FOR PARIS, THE LENGTH OF HIS STAY IN FRANCE, AND HIS PROPOSED DATE OF ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON. SIM AGREED AND SAID THAT HE WOULD FURNISH US THIS INFORMATION SOON. HE SEEMED TO THINK NON WOULD DEPART PHNOM PENH BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.

2. CONCERNING THE CHARACTER OF THE VISIT, I SAID WE ASSUME NON WILL WISH TO VISIT PRIVATELY WITH HIS SON FOR A TIME AND THEREAFTER ENTER UPON AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INDUSTRIAL AND TOURISTIC INTEREST AS WELL AS CALLS ON APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. I REFERRED TO THE KHMER RADIO REPORT THAT NON WILL BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT NIXON (PHNOM PENH 3705) AND CAUTIONED THAT INSOFAR AS I WAS AWARE THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT COMMITTED HIMSELF TO RECEIVING NON. HE OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE MIGHT WELL DO SO BUT IT WOULD DEPEND ON SCHEDULING AND OTHER FACTORS OUTSIDE OUR
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PURVIEW HERE. SIM REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT BUT ALSO OBSERVED THAT NON WILL PROBABLY BEAR A LETTER AND A GIFT FROM THE MARSHAL FOR THE PRESIDENT.

3. SIM COMMENTED THAT THE SOCIO- REPUBLICANS ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO SEE NON' S TRIP ABROAD CARRIED OFF WITH SOME PANACHE, AS A FACE- SAVING ENTERPRISE IF FOR NO OTHER REASONS. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS CONFIDENT OF WASHINGTON' S COOPERATION IN ARRANGING A SUITABLE PROGRAM.

4. SIM CONFIRMED THAT THE FORMALITIES RESPECTING HIS OWN NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON ARE IN TRAIN. HE THOUGHT A REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT MIGHT SHORTLY BE MADE AND SEEMED TO FAVOR AS EARLY AN ARRIVAL AS POSSIBLE SO THAT HE COULD HELP WITH THE NON VISIT.

5. COMMENT. ANY NEW POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS HERE ARE UNLIKELY TO FALL INTO PLACE UNTIL BGEN LON NON ACTUALLY LEAVES PHNOM PENH, AND I DID NOT THINK I SHOULD BE OVERLY FORTHCOMING ABOUT HIS TRIP TO THE US UNTIL HE FURNISHES US SOME FIRM DATES. THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH NEED TO BE MADE IN ADVANCE OF HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON CAN PRESUMABLY BE WORKED OUT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY PARIS.

SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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